

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An agricultural composition consisting essentially of a mixture of comprising (a) 1% to 40% of an acid and (b) 10% to 20% of one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, phosphorus acid, poly phosphoric acid, and perchloric acid, and wherein said phosphonic compounds are selected from the group consisting of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid and salts of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid, wherein said mixture is formulated as a liquid for phosphonic compound(s) is co-formulated with said acid prior to direct application to a cotton plant by spraying.

2. (currently amended) A method for increasing the efficiency and efficacy of phosphonic compounds in controlling cotton plant defoliation ~~vegetation~~, the method comprising the steps ~~[[step]]~~ of:

(a) preparing a composition consisting essentially of a mixture of (i) 1% to 40% of an acid and (ii) 10% to 20% of one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said ~~applying to the vegetation a composition comprising an acid~~ is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, phosphorus acid, polyphosphoric acid, and perchloric acid, and ~~one or more phosphonic compounds~~ wherein said phosphonic compound is selected from the group consisting of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid and salts of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid;

(b) mixing said composition of step (a) with water to form an application solution;
and

(c) applying said application solution formed in step (b) to the cotton plant thereby controlling defoliation ~~vegetation a composition comprising an acid selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, phosphorus acid, polyphosphoric acid, and perchloric acid and one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said phosphonic compound(s) is co-formulated with said acid prior to direct application to said vegetation by spraying.~~

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) The method of claim 2 where the plant growth regulator efficiency of the compound is increased.

5. (original) The method of claim 2 where the growth inhibition efficiency of the compound is increased.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~where the vegetation is cotton and~~ the boll opening efficiency of the compound is increased.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~where the vegetation is cotton and~~ the defoliation efficiency of the compound is increased.

8. (original) The method of claim 2 where the plant height stunting efficiency of the compound is increased.

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the mixture has having a pH between 1 and 5 ~~[[3]]~~.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the composition formed in step (b) has ~~having~~ a pH between 1 and 5 [[3]].

12. (currently amended) An agricultural composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a mixture of 1% to 40% phosphoric acid and 10% to 20% of one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said phosphonic compounds are selected from the group consisting of (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid and salts of (2-chloroethyl) phosphonic acid, and wherein said phosphonic compound(s) is co-formulated with said phosphoric acid prior to mixture is formulated as a liquid for direct application to a cotton plant by spraying.

13. (previously presented) The composition of claim 12 wherein the phosphonic compound is (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid (ethephon).

14. (currently amended) A method for increasing the efficiency and efficacy of phosphonic compounds in controlling cotton plant defoliation ~~vegetation~~, the method comprising the step of applying to the cotton plant ~~vegetation~~ a composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a mixture of 1% to 40% phosphoric acid and 10% to 20% of one or more phosphonic compounds, wherein said phosphonic compound(s) is co-formulated with said phosphoric acid prior to mixture is formulated as a liquid for direct application to said cotton plant ~~vegetation~~ by spraying, and wherein the boll opening efficiency of the phosphonic compound is increased.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the phosphonic compound is (2-chloroethyl)phosphonic acid (ethephon).

16. (new) The composition of claim 1, wherein the mixture has a pH between 2 and 4.

17. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the composition formed in step (b) has a pH between 2 and 4.

18. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the rate of application is about 3 to about 32 gallons per acre.

19. (new) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition further consists of one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, an emulsifier, a solvent, and surface active agents.

20. (new) The method of claim 2, wherein the composition formed in step (b) further consists of one or more ingredients selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, an emulsifier, a solvent, and surface active agents.